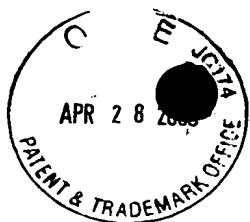


PCT

PATENT

IS-US020389



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Yukio KAKITA et al.

Serial No.: 10/522,612

Filed: January 31, 2005

For: PACKAGING APPARATUS, PACKAGING
METHOD, AND PACKAGING SYSTEMINFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTAssistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In accordance with MPEP 609 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants bring the references listed on the attached PTO-1449-Form to the Examiner's attention and request that they be considered and made of record in this application. Copies of the non-U.S. patents are attached.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of this application. Thus, ***no fee is believed to be due for this Information Disclosure Statement.*** However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1836. A duplicate copy of this Statement is enclosed for that purpose.

Relevance of Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 11-171110 is discussed in the paragraph that begins on page 1, line 21 of the translation of the international application.

Relevance of Japanese Patent Application Publications Nos. 4-072160, 64-084831, 08-040424 is discussed in the PCT/ISA/210 and PCT/IPEA/409 submitted on January 31, 2005.

Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2001-165803 discloses a seal checker in which the pressure member 3 and the conveyor 2 hold and press the package. The amount of the reaction force to the pressure member 3 or the amount of displacement of the pressure member 3 is detected by the servo motor 32.

Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2002-211521 discloses a seal checker in which the pressing member 32 shown in Figure 2 is damper-controlled such that when the pressing member starts 32 moving at a speed greater than a predetermined threshold, a torque

is applied to the pressing member 32 in a direction opposite the direction of the movement of the pressing member 32.

Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2000-289717 discloses a weighing and packaging inspection system having a weighing apparatus that performs a weighing process, a packaging apparatus that performs a packaging process, and an inspection apparatus that performs an inspection process. These apparatuses are connected via a communication network. The system collects processing results for each of the processes, and detects an error in any of the processes based on the collected processing results.

* * *

Prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


Kyoie K. Kabashima
Reg. No. 54,874

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Dated: Apr 27, 2005

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

APR 28 2005

APR 28 2005

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO		<i>Complete if Known</i>	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT		Application Number	10/522,612
		Filing Date	01/31/2005
		First Named Inventor	Yukio KAKITA et al.
		Group Art Unit	
		Examiner Name	
		Attorney Docket Number	IS-US020389
(use as many sheets as necessary)			
Sheet	1	of	1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		JP-11-171110-A	06/29/1999	NAKAGAWA et al.	Entire disclosure	Yes
		JP-2001-165803-A	06/22/2001	TAKAOKA et al.	Entire disclosure	Yes
		JP-2002-211521-A	07/31/2002	MIZUGUCHI et al.	Entire disclosure	Yes
		JP-2000-289717-A	10/17/2000	NAKAGAWA et al.	Entire disclosure	Yes
		JP-04-072160-A	03/06/1992	ARAKI	Entire disclosure	No
		JP-08-040424-A	02/13/1996	PALTRINIERI	Entire disclosure	Yes
		JP-S64-084831-A	03/30/1989	KOMATSU	Entire disclosure	No

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04.

³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the

Enter Office that issued the document, by the two letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 16). For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible.⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.